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The Responsibilities of Florists and Nurserymen.

IN a late issue attention was invited to the important influence exerted by florists, seedsmen and nurserymen in forming the public taste in horticultural matters. In some directions this influence becomes almost absolutely controlling. It is the florist, for example, who decides for all, except a few inquiring amateurs, what kinds of cut flowers and plants shall be used for the decoration of homes and what kinds shall remain practically unknown. Now, no one can wield an influence of this sort without a corresponding obligation, and in this light the growers and dealers in plants and flowers owe it as a duty to their patrons to see that the public taste is developed by being fed on what is good. Especially is this true when they are called upon to decide for those who are not in a position to decide for themselves which of the old favorites among our plants and flowers shall retain their place in popular esteem and which shall be replaced by newer rivals; which novelties shall be accepted as genuine additions to our sources of enjoyment and which shall be rejected as undeserving of favor.

The desire for novelties as such—for things new, irrespective of their intrinsic excellence—is a strong passion in the human breast, and one upon which a trader of any kind is tempted to play. Although we owe to this passion for novelty much that we have gained in all departments of human effort, its results have nowhere been of unmixed good; and in the department of horticulture evil results have often marked its gratification. Consider the prodigious degree to which the lists of cultivated Roses and other flowers have been enlarged. Every season brings new claimants for favor to the front; rivalry in the introduction of novelties often prevents a thorough testing of the merits of older plants; novelty rather than beauty is often their chief merit; and if they are generally cultivated it can only be at the sacrifice of other kinds. There is no room for all these thousand varieties either in the nursery, or in the florist's shop, or in the purchaser's home; and though the public has undoubtedly something to do with deciding which shall be grown and which neglected, the florist's power is infinitely greater. Many persons who buy have no taste at all in such matters; others are willing to submit their taste to the florist's judgment with regard to beauty; and if the florist makes, not beauty, but mere novelty, his criterion, the average buyer will but too readily fall in with his mood.

Sometimes, it is true, the public is wiser than its purveyors anticipated. For example, an attempt was made last winter to introduce into the New York and Philadelphia markets certain horrors called "dyed flowers;" but they soon disappeared from view, and we were told, upon inquiry, because "the public did not care about them." But when it comes to more delicate questions—as the difference between Rose and Rose—we cannot, and perhaps ought not to depend upon the public taste; and the florist must necessarily know more and should have an acuter feeling for beauty than his patrons. If, in recommending plants or flowers to his patrons, he should consistently make beauty his criterion, and pride himself upon supplying the most excellent varieties in the most perfect condition, rather than those which are "very expensive because they are new and scarce," he would, in the long run, distance his competitors. He might miss a chance now and then of making a temporary "great success" with one novelty or another, but taking month with month and year with year, he would be sure of the best class of custom, and the most of it. The truth is, we think, not that the public, in theory, cares less for beauty than for rarity, but that it finds it harder to be sure of getting it. A purchaser, devoid of confidence in his own taste (and most purchasers are of this sort), knows he can trust a florist when he says a flower is new or rare, but is by no means so sure he can trust him in matters of taste; and in default of the certainty that he will get the most beautiful possible thing, takes the most singular or expensive. If conditions were different, his choice, we believe, would be different, too; and thus it is that our florists' responsibility in this direction is so great.

Naturally, we have not the slightest wish to decry that constant, vigorous and often costly search for novelties which yearly enlarges our sources of enjoyment by giving us newly-introduced species of flowers or newly-cultivated varieties, which are often real acquisitions. It would be a misfortune, indeed, if we were to be forever restricted to our present list of flowers, long and rich though it is. All we wish to say is that there is danger as well as promise in the search for new things, and that the florist should try to preserve us from the danger while bringing the promise to right fulfillment. The private green-house and garden of the botanical enthusiast; the experimental station established by public or individual munificence—these are the places for the perpetuation of plants whose interest lies in their rarity or singularity, rather than in their beauty of form, their splendor or delicacy of flower, or their richness of perfume. Beauty and sweetness in all their myriad varieties are the things that the public really wants, and these the florist should endeavor to supply. A feeling for real excellence should guide and inspire the enterprising search for novelty, as it should be the only test when the acceptance and perpetuation of a novelty is in question.

We are glad to acknowledge that their past history gives us reason to believe that the florists and nurserymen will not disappoint us. As a rule, our florists' shops have always contained more good things than poor ones; more that are recommended by their excellence and fewer by their mere rarity or costliness. Every year shows an improvement in the quality of the flowers offered and in the effectiveness of their arrangement. We see no cause to doubt that our florists and nurserymen will continue to grow in taste themselves, and in a consciousness of their responsibility as agents in the elevation of the taste of the nation; and these words have been written less as words of needed warning than as words of friendly recognition and encouragement.

THE price of White Pine stumpage has increased enormously of late years—several hundred per cent. in some instances, as the great forests of this tree approach nearer and nearer to extermination; but while the price of the finished lumber has also increased, it has not yet reached the point which will exclude it from many of those uses for which it was once almost exclusively employed in this country. White pine lumber is high enough, however, to cause anxiety among lumbermen, and to compel them to find some cheaper and more available material to take its place. The most immediately available wood for this purpose is yellow poplar, as the wood of the Tulip tree is called commercially. It is light and soft, straight-grained and easily worked; it stands well, and when it is not painted it turns with age to a deep rich color. Nashville, in Tennessee, has always been the important manufacturing point for this lumber, as the Tulip tree is found in its greatest perfection along the banks of the streams which flow down the western slope of the Alleghany Mountains; and south of the Ohio and north of the Gulf States it has always been the best local building material. The attention which is now paid to yellow poplar, however, is much more general, and the manufacturers of this lumber are active in their efforts to secure logs and regulate the price of the manufactured lumber. But yellow poplar is not destined to play any very important or leading part in the lumber supply of the United States, and the future of the business is hardly worth considering. The Tulip tree does not form forests by itself, and is not even a considerable element in the forest anywhere. The trees are often very large, but they are widely scattered, and the most accessible have already been cut. There are still great quantities, in the aggregate, of this timber standing, but much of it is now almost too inaccessible for profitable manufacture.

Bass-wood, or linden, a soft and easily worked wood, which is found in considerable abundance in the extreme Northern States, is now used to replace white pine in the manufacture of mouldings and similar objects, for which it is well suited. The quantity of bass-wood, however, is too small to make this tree really important as a factor of the national lumber supply.

Much attention has been paid in late years, as has already been explained in these columns, to cottonwood, southern cypress, and sweet gum as substitutes for white pine. Sweet gum will probably be very largely used before many years, and for some purposes, like flooring strips, it will make an excellent substitute for white pine. The supply, too, is large, and it is likely to last, as the Gum tree grows on land which cannot be used for agricultural purposes.

But the real substitutes for white pine, or rather the only trees now growing on this continent in sufficient quantities ever to take its place, are the Long-leaved Pine of the Southern States, and the Oregon Fir of Puget Sound. These are the trees upon which the American people will have to depend during the twentieth century, or until they are exhausted or a new crop of White Pine grows up in the Northern States and in Canada.

Flowers in Japan.—I.

THERE is no country in the world where flowers are so universally beloved as in Japan. They are inseparable from the life, art and literature of the people, and to deprive the Japanese of their flowers would be to take the sunshine out of their lives. They are enjoyed equally by high and low. The richer classes, in the seclusion of their well-kept gardens, can feast their eyes on the beautiful, while the poor have the benefit of the public parks, gardens and flower-shows, and the poorest of the poor devote a few cents of their earnings to the gratification of their taste.

But in Japan, where everything is characterized by extreme simplicity, the people are consistent in caring more for the beauty of individual flowers than for the effect of large masses. The graceful and refined lines of a few well arranged flowers and twigs are a never-ending source of pleasure to them and no desire is shown to make a vulgar display of great quantities of blossoms. The art of flower-arrangement, which forms a part of the education of girls of the upper classes, has simplicity for its foundation. It is divided into a number of schools or classes, and a long course of study is required before one can become proficient in either of them. Nothing in the arrangement of flowers is left to accident or to individual taste; it is governed by rules as fixed as those which govern music.

A great variety of flowers follow in constant succession through the different seasons. The snow has hardly disappeared when the early Plum, the prime favorite of all, bursts its buds and is hailed with welcome by the delighted people as the first token of the coming spring. Great gardens or groves of old gnarled, moss-covered Plum trees abound in and about the cities, and thither in the blooming season the people resort *en masse*, dressed in holiday attire, to enjoy an æsthetic feast under the trees and drink fragrant tea. Here they give vent to their delight by inscribing poetic sentiments, too brief, perhaps, to be called poems, and hanging them on the branches of the Plum trees. The Cherry blossoms follow the Plum in quick succession before its latest-blooming varieties have disappeared. The Cherry (Sakura), which almost rivals the Plum in popularity, has many different varieties, single and double, white and pink. But all these trees have the same peculiarity—they bear no edible fruit. They are planted for the flowers only, and so dense is the growth of these, that they resemble great pink and white clouds when seen from a distance. In Tokio the favorite resorts for the people in Cherry blossom time are Umeno Park and Mokojima, the latter being a road which runs along the banks of the Sunida River. Great old Cherry trees line both sides of this road for a distance of five miles, and the branches, meeting overhead, form a perfect canopy of dense blossoms. In the park at Umeno are many exceptionally large trees, some of a variety which resembles the Weeping Willow in habit, and covered with innumerable small pink flowers. Some of these trees are from four to six feet in diameter. At all these resorts temporary tea-houses or refreshment booths are erected. A favorite beverage is Cherry tea, made from last year's blossoms which have been dried and put away for the purpose.

Among later flowers the Wistaria, Pæony, Lotus, Azalea, Iris and Chrysanthemum are the chief favorites. The Wistaria is seen at its best at the celebrated temple-garden of Kameido (Turtle Well) in Tokio. The place derives its name from an old well over which is placed an immense stone turtle. The Wistaria vines are very old and the stems of some of them measure two feet in diameter, while their racemes of flowers, when in greatest perfection, are from four to five feet in length. They are trained over trellises on the borders of the lake, which is filled with enormous golden carp that come to the surface at the clapping of hands to be fed by the visitors.

The Lotus grows naturally and abundantly in all the moats and ponds in and about Tokio and throughout central and southern Japan. The leaves appear on the surface of the water about the beginning of June, and gradually rise until they stand from four to seven feet above the surface, measuring from two to four feet in diameter. The flowers appear about the beginning of August, and continue throughout the month. After the petals have fallen the seed-pods continue to grow, and, while green, form a favorite article of food, as do the long, white roots, which are eaten as vegetables For Buddhists the Lotus has a somewhat sacred character, and it is often cultivated in the ponds of the temple-gardens by the priests, who use the flowers for altar decorations. Buddha himself is generally represented seated on a Lotus flower, and it

enters very extensively into all forms of Japanese art and decorative work.

The Iris is also a favorite among favorites, and a well-known tea-house-garden at Mokujuma, near Tokio, is celebrated for its annual display of these flowers. The plants are grown here in beds and ditches, somewhat below the surface and partly filled with water.

Flowers are distributed among the people by means of perambulating flower-sellers, and by flower-fairs. The seller goes about the streets carrying two huge bamboo baskets swung from a pole across his shoulders. These baskets (see illustration, page 343) are divided into a number of different compartments, each containing a different variety of cut flowers or leaves. The carrier is sometimes almost hidden by the great mass of flowers and foliage he bears. Yet the construction is light, easily carried, and, like all the articles produced by this people, at once simple, practical and artistic. The common people are the vender's patrons as well as the rich, for, as I have said, the most indigent will buy a few fresh flowers with which to beautify their humble homes.

The flower-fairs or shows take place at fixed dates alternately in the various wards or districts of the city and are held at night. Throughout the preceding afternoon one may see great numbers of farmers and gardeners from the suburbs and the country dragging in their carts filled with all kinds of flowers in pots, as well as with large trees and shrubs with their roots roughly tied up in coarse sacking. When they reach the site of the fair their wares are arranged as temptingly as possible on either side of the street, trees and shrubs at one end and flowers at the other. Innumerable lanterns and torches illuminate the scene. With twilight the first customers straggle along, and by night the streets are crowded with a good-natured, happy throng of men, women and children. Then the bargaining begins, for it is well known to every purchaser that it is the custom to ask from five to ten times as much for the objects offered as the seller expects ultimately to obtain. When the price of a dwarfed Cherry-tree covered with a mass of buds is asked, the gardener answers promptly "one yen, fifty sen" (a yen is divided into 100 sen). The customer shows no surprise, but gravely offers twenty sen. And after many exclamations of "Impossible, honorable master," feints of departure on the part of the would-be buyer, offers to accept intermediate sums, and enthusiastic praises of the beauties, visible and invisible, of the specimen, it is sold, perhaps, for twenty-five sen. Plants are very cheap on these occasions and for a modest sum one can get enough to stock a small garden. But opportunities for the enjoyment and purchase of flowers are not the only attraction of these fairs. Booths for the sale of candy, cakes and children's toys; performances by trained monkeys, birds and dogs; jugglers, musicians and sellers of refreshments surround one until the head is in a confused whirl. But amid all this crowding, noise and bustle the greatest good nature prevails and a more orderly crowd cannot be imagined. As they return to their homes, each person with his burden of sweet-smelling flowers, accompanied by joyous laughing children, one feels that they are indeed the happiest people in the world.

New York. *Theodore Wores.*

A Protection for Artificially Fertilized Flowers.

FASCINATING as is the work of cross-fertilizing flowers, there are some annoyances in it that destroy a considerable part of the pleasure. One of the worst of these is the difficulty of inclosing the flowers in sacks after they have been operated upon. The small paper sack, such as seedsmen use, is made of such stiff paper that it is sometimes difficult to tie it about the stem of a flower without injuring some of the delicate organs. Then, after it is attached, it is so heavy that it not infrequently breaks the flower stem, particularly in windy weather. It is quite troublesome, also, to untie the string when it is desirable to remove the sack for the pollenation. Sacks made of tissue paper obviate some of the objections, but they introduce another—the thin paper is so readily wet through by the rain that it will not last.

Some of these difficulties are obviated by the following device: Make small sacks of a very thin, oiled paper, such as nurserymen use for wrapping plants to be sent by mail. Cut them out after a small seedsman's package, as a pattern, leaving the little lappel at the top which, in the ordinary package, is used for sealing it up. Then place a short piece of fine copper wire across the sack, just at the base of the lappel, and paste the latter back over it, as shown in the drawing. This wire serves as a substitute for the string. After the sack has been slipped over the flower, draw the two sides of it together with the thumb and finger of the left hand, so that the stem of the flower is directly between the thumb and finger. Then, with the right hand, bring the edges of the sack together and withdraw the left hand, and pinch the neck of the sack snugly about the stem, thus closing it, while the wire prevents it from opening. Then fold down the corner of the sack. The operation requires considerably less time than it takes to describe it, and less than half as long as it takes to tie a string about the neck of the sack. This sack can be taken off as readily as it is put on; it is very light, so that the wind does not cause it to break the peduncle of the most delicate flower; it does not become wet by the rain, and it possesses the additional advantage that the paper being translucent, by simply looking through the sack toward the sun, one can readily see whether or not the ovary has commenced to swell, and thus detect if the operation has been successful. Different sized sacks should be provided to accommodate different sized flowers. For the smallest flowers the sacks need be but an inch wide and two inches long.

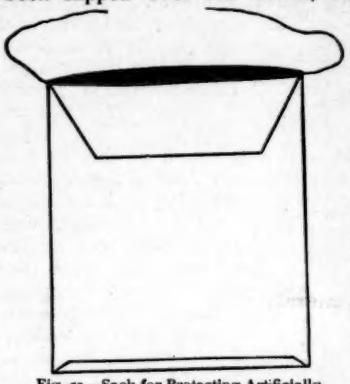


Fig. 53.—Sack for Protecting Artificially Fertilized Flowers.

I corresponded with a well-known manufacturer of paper bags in New York, to see if such sacks could be cheaply made. In reply, I received some very nicely made duplicates of the sample sent, with the wires inserted, and with the information that they could be furnished at $1.25 per thousand.

Geneva, N. Y. *E. S. Goff.*

Foreign Correspondence.

London Letter.

BARON SCHROEDER sent some flowers from a few of his choice Orchids to the exhibition of the Royal Horticultural Society to-day. One of these was the extremely rare *Saccolabium Heathii*, which, until lately, was quite unique in cultivation. It is a white variety of *S. Blumei*, from which it differs in no way except in the snowy color of its flowers. The spike shown measured fully fifteen inches in length and every tiny white bloom looks like a miniature bird. The perfume is delightful. This rarity came to view a year or two ago by a chance in an importation of the ordinary *S. Blumei*, and the lucky possessors of it, Messrs. Heath, of Cheltenham, sold it to Mr. W. See, of Downside, Leatherhead, and he disposed of it to Baron Schroeder, retaining, however, a small piece in his possession. This small piece has been secured, I hear, for one of your great American Orchid growers, so that there will be one plant of this Orchid in Europe and one in America. I cannot adequately describe to you the chaste purity of the flower, and, though I am not an Orchid enthusiast, I greatly admire this one. Another choice Orchid from the Baron's garden was *Lælia callistoglossa*, one of Messrs. Veitch's finest hybrids, it being a cross between *L. purpurata* and *Cattleya Gigas*, and I have no hesitation in saying that it is the most splendid Lælia or Cattleya in cultivation. The flowers are larger than those of any *C. Gigas* I have seen; the sepals and petals are broad and do not curl, as in *L. purpurata*, and in color are a soft

mauve-purple, while the labellum, which is fully two inches across, is of the deepest crimson purple. A four-flowered spike from the Baron of that wonderful hybrid, *Cypripedium Morganiæ*, showed what a grand plant it is when grown to perfection. It is a cross between *C. Stonei* and *C. Veitchi*, and is exactly intermediate between the parents, the chief attraction of the flowers being the broad, prolonged petals, which are heavily spotted with black on a pale ground. The very distinct and beautiful *Cattleya Schroederiana* was shown in flower. This flower recalls *C. dolosa*, being about the same size and form, and of a uniform, pale mauve-purple color. It is a dwarf growing plant, with pseudo-bulbs about four inches high. Another choice Cattleya was *C. Chamberlaini*, a hybrid between *C. Dowiana* and *C. guttata Leopoldi*. The flowers are about the size of those of *Lælia elegans*, and have plum purple sepals and petals, and a labellum of the deepest carmine-magenta. The exquisite little *Lælia Balemanniana*, the hybrid between *Sophronitis grandiflora* and a *Cattleya* of which Baron Schroeder is the only possessor, was shown in perfection, much finer, indeed, than when exhibited here for the first time. The flowers are some two inches across, with sepals and petals of a deep rose pink, or, to be more exact, the color is like that of *Odontoglossum roseum*, while the small lip is crimson, with a golden centre. This priceless little Orchid is, perhaps, the rarest in the Dell collection. One more Orchid is worth noticing, and that is *Cattleya granulosa asperata*, a large flower, with olive green sepals, blotched and spotted with chocolate, and a broad and flat lip of crimson-purple, marbled with white. I have dwelt upon these Orchid varieties because I think it will interest those of your readers who are collecting Orchids, and because we have so seldom an opportunity of describing them.

Cœlogyne Sanderiana, exhibited at an earlier meeting by Baron Ferdinand Rothschild, and certificated, is worthy of mention after these varieties as, without exception, the finest of all the white-flowered Cœlogynes, and Orchid lovers look upon it as a grand addition to showy Orchids. In growth it is not remarkable, having globular-oblong bulbs as big as a hen's egg, and long, deep green leaves. The drooping flower-spike carries about half a dozen flowers, each three and a half inches across, with white sepals and a broad labellum, spotted and barred with yellow. No details were given of its native country, but it is presumably an Eastern plant.

Messrs. Cannell, of Swanley, showed several new double varieties of Begonia, of which one was singled out as worthy of a certificate. This was called C. Stowell, and has flowers four inches across, very double, of a pleasing cherry rose color; the habit of growth is dwarf and sturdy. A new variety of the Oriental Poppy, *Papaver orientale*, was certificated. It is called Blush Queen, and instead of the flowers being fiery scarlet, as in the type, they are a pale pink, with black centre. It is a very striking plant and is looked upon as a great gain to hardy herbaceous plants. Among a number of border Carnations one only was considered worthy of a certificate. This was a sort called B. H. Elliott, and has medium sized and very full flowers, with yellow petals flaked and tipped with crimson. Messrs. Paul, of Cheshunt, showed a good collection of cut Roses, among which I noted a few that I thought good although not much known. These included that lovely sort, The Bride, which I believe we have to thank an American for. It was shown splendidly and a grower told me he thought it would turn out a first-rate autumn Rose. Another was American Beauty, also from your side, and likely to become a favorite here. It is a free bloomer, with petals of good substance and of a rich plum-crimson, if I may so describe an indescribable color. Lady Darnley is a new Rose that is a good deal talked about here. It reminded me of Marie Baumann, though it is different in color somewhat and the form is not so flat. Silver Queen, one of William Paul's novelties, is coming to the front. It is a pale pink sort, with flowers of excellent form and substance. His Queen of Queens, too, which was sent out a few years ago, has been shown well this season, and promises to be a good late Rose. Other new Roses I noticed to-day in fine condition were: Mlle. Eugène Verdier, a Tea variety, and Souvenir de Mad. Alfred Vy, a hybrid perpetual of a plum purple color. It is almost too early for the second crop of Rose bloom, but if the present favorable weather continues, there will be some fine displays at future meetings. *F. Goldring.*

London, August 14th, 1888.

New or Little Known Plants.

Lycium pallidum.

OF the seventy species of Lycium known to botanists only *L. vulgare*, a native of southern Europe, the well-known Matrimony Vine of all old gardens, and *L. Chinense*, are commonly seen in cultivation. Two north African species, *L. Afrum* and *L. barbarum*, are sometimes cultivated, although the plants seen under the latter name can usually be referred to the Chinese species. The genus Lycium is widely distributed through the dry, extra-tropical portion of the world, with two principal centres of distribution, one in southern Africa and the other in the dry regions of western South America, from which several species extend into the territory of the United States, from California to western Texas, with one species in the southern United States, and another in the Sandwich Islands. None of the species of south-western North America, which are all rigid, spiny shrubs, often forming a considerable part of the shrubby desert-growth, have ever been seen in gardens, with the exception of the one figured upon page 341 of this issue—*Lycium pallidum**—which has now been growing in the Arnold Arboretum for several years. It is the largest flowered of the North American species, and one of the first known, having been discovered in New Mexico by Fremont, in 1844, on the Rio Virgen, one of the tributaries of the Colorado River of the west. It is not a rare plant, being found also in Arizona and in southern Utah. *Lycium pallidum*, in cultivation, forms a spreading bush, two to three feet high, with ashy gray, tortuous, somewhat pendulous branches, sparingly armed with long, slender, rigid spines. The leaves are very pale, spathulate and oblanceolate, an inch or two long. The flowers, which are solitary, or sometimes in pairs from the axils of the leaves, are borne on slender peduncles, rather exceeding in length the deeply five cleft calyx. The funnel-form corolla is nearly an inch long, with broad and rounded lobes, slightly pubescent in the interior towards the base. It is green, sometimes tinged with purple. The berries, which are bright red when ripe, are nearly half an inch long. This interesting plant, as well as a few others, from the dry interior region of south-western North America, has proved, quite unexpectedly, perfectly hardy in the Arboretum, where it flowers regularly every year. *C. S. S.*

Cultural Department.

The Cultivation of Native Ferns.—III.

THE cultural directions which accompany the following list of native Ferns are based upon personal experience in growing the various species, with the exception of cases otherwise noted. When special directions are not given, the cultivation described in an earlier article is recommended. In the arrangement of species and nomenclature the classification given in "The Ferns of North America," by Professor Daniel C. Eaton, has been followed. The measurements of species have been taken from plants under cultivation. They are maximum measurements of available specimens, but not greater than may be reasonably expected from established plants under good cultivation. Measurements given in italics are from Professor Eaton's work, as the species

* *Lycium pallidum*, Miers. *Ill. S. Am. Pl.* 11, 108, *t.* 67.—Torrey, *Bot. Mex. Bound. Surv.* 154.—Gray, *Proc. Am. Acad.* vi. 45; Syn. Fl. N. Am. i. 238.

are not at present in the writer's collection or other accessible ones. All species not otherwise designated are indigenous to New England.

According to Professor Eaton, there are 149 species of Ferns indigenous to the United States. Of this number fifty or more species and many varieties may be cultivated in this vicinity in the open ground or with the protection of a cold-frame in winter.

The list of Ferns which are hardy, or nearly so, could doubtless be much extended by species and varieties from the north-western States, Europe and Japan. In this direction there is a good field for experimenting.

Polypodium vulgare. This common evergreen Fern does not grow very luxuriantly in cultivation. Transplant in tufts or sheet-like masses from the rocks or logs on which it grows naturally and plant under similar conditions in the garden. In planting do not bury the running root-stocks beneath the surface of the soil. Leaf-mould. Eight to eleven inches.

Polypodium Californicum. A handsome species which does well with the protection of a frame in winter at the Botanic Garden in Cambridge. Native of California. Nine inches.

Pellæa gracilis. A tiny gem, one of the rarest, and most difficult Ferns to cultivate. Plant in pots with plenty of drainage, or in niches of rocks in a cool, moist corner of rock-work frame. This species would probably do well in a Wardian case in a cool green-house. Specimens at the Botanic Garden in Cambridge measure three inches.

Pellæa atropurpurea is a very distinct and attractive evergreen Fern. Easier to cultivate than the last species, but thrives under the same conditions. Eleven to thirteen inches.

Cryptogramme acrostichoides is a rare, attractive, little Fern, easily grown in pots with old mortar. It would doubtless do equally well in a frame. Indigenous to the far north and north-west. Sterile fronds, three to four inches; fertile, six to seven and one-half inches.

Pteris aquilina, or Brake. This commonest of all Ferns is capable of the most splendid results under cultivation in rich, highly manured soil. It has been grown to the height of nearly six feet, and the fronds laid flat would probably have exceeded that length. Unfortunately, the bed was moved last autumn, so that measurements of finest growths cannot be given. It is a little difficult to transplant, but when it gets established it spreads tremendously, and becomes a nuisance in thickly planted borders. Give it plenty of room, with high culture, and it will become one of the prides of the garden. Fifty-six to sixty-four inches.

Adiantum pedatum. This beautiful Fern, the Maidenhair, is already in high repute, so there is no need to sound its praises. The ebony black stem and exquisite foliage are known everywhere. This species is easily cultivated, and the fronds attain their greatest beauty in moist, shady spots. It is a very useful Fern for cutting, and a supply is easily maintained for any moderate demands. Leaf-mould. Fronds, twelve to sixteen inches broad.

Lomaria Spicant. This very striking and handsome evergreen species is easily cultivated, but, unfortunately, is not perfectly hardy. A native of the far north-west. Peat and leaf-mould. Frame. Fertile fronds, thirteen to eighteen inches; sterile fronds, shorter.

Woodwardia angustifolia. A rare and very handsome Fern, with bright green, distinct foliage. It is hardy, but is not very easily grown, and is safest with the protection of a frame in winter. Peat and leaf-mould. Fifteen inches.

Woodwardia Virginica. Dark foliage, handsome. Culture as for the last species, but is more easily grown. *One to three feet.*

Asplenium viride. A rare, charming, dwarf Fern. Close to the following species, requiring the same culture. Plants at Cambridge measure four inches.

Fig. 54.—Lycium pallidum.—See page 340.

Asplenium Trichomanes. One of the most exquisite of all our dwarf species. It does not do well in the open border; but thrives in cool, damp niches of rocks and in pots. Evergreen. Peat and leaf-mould. Frame. Four to four and a half inches.

Asplenium ebeneum. Narrow and comparatively tall evergreen fronds. A very attractive species. Peat, leaf-mould, and a frame in winter, as it is not very hardy. If planted in the open border give abundant drainage. Eight to ten inches.

Asplenium angustifolium. This rare and handsome species is one of the most distinct of our native Ferns. Fronds, tall, light green, once pinnate. The most desirable of the large Aspleniums, and of easiest culture. Twenty-four to thirty-three inches.

Asplenium Ruta-muraria. One of our tiniest Ferns and difficult to grow. The finest seen in cultivation was at Kew Gardens, where some rocks, with specimens growing in pockets, had been moved bodily from the woods to the garden. It may be grown for several years by potting carefully, with plenty of broken limestone drainage. *One to two and a half inches.*

Asplenium thelypteroides. A tall, dark green species. Desirable, and grows very freely. Thirty to thirty-four inches.

Asplenium Filix-fœmina. This common species grows in strong, fine-tufted masses, and likes a rich soil. It gets rather shabby during the summer, and therefore should not occupy a very conspicuous position in the garden. A new growth may be induced in midsummer, without injury to the plant, by cutting off all the fronds close to the ground, when a new lot will soon take their place. This Fern is a very variable species, and in England a large number of varieties are cultivated in gardens. Fifty-four varieties are offered in the catalogue of one of the English Fern-growers. Many of these varieties are distinct and well worth growing. Two and a half to three and a half feet.

Scolopendrium vulgare. This beautiful and distinct Fern, known as the Hart's-tongue, is extremely rare in this country, and it is best obtained from dealers, or from England, where it is common. It is not indigenous to New England, but is found in New York and some other parts of the country. It requires the protection of a frame in winter. Peat and leaf-mould are advantageous to its successful cultivation. In England large numbers of varieties of this protean Fern are cultivated; but they are not, for the most part, particularly desirable, unless as curiosities. Moore* describes sixty-six varieties with reniform, incised, curled and contorted fronds of every conceivable shape. Thirteen to seventeen inches.

Camptosorus rhizophyllus. The Walking Fern. This interesting species receives its name from its habit of forming little plants at the tips of the fronds, which take root, grow, and in their turn form plantlets at the tips of their fronds, and thus a carpet of Ferns may be formed. Not difficult to grow in pots or in a cool, moist spot, with peat, leaf-mould and lime rubbish. Evergreen. Frame, five to seven inches.

Phegopteris polypodioides. This desirable Fern spreads rapidly, and makes a low, carpet-like growth of much beauty. It is the earliest comer in spring, having well-developed fronds when other Ferns are just pushing up their graceful forms. Of easiest culture. Fifteen to eighteen inches.

Phegopteris hexagonoptera. A species much resembling the above, but of larger and richer growth; does best with protection of a frame in winter. Fourteen to seventeen inches.

Phegopteris dryopteris. This very beautiful dwarf species is one of the most desirable small Ferns for cultivation, as it is easily grown and spreads quite rapidly, making a lovely light green carpet of delicate fronds; leaf-mould. Eight to twelve inches.

Phegopteris calcarea. An attractive species of low stature; succeeds with a frame in winter, and may be hardy. Found in the West. Peat and leaf-mould. Four to eight inches.

Aspidium Noveboracense. A pretty Fern; fronds light green; delicate. Twenty to twenty-four inches.

Aspidium thelypteris. A marsh Fern; distinct, with delicate, thin fronds, very pretty. Twenty inches.

Aspidium Nevadense. A rather tall, handsome species, with bright green fronds. A native of Pacific Slope. Frame. Two feet.

Aspidium cristatum. A tall, narrow, rigid Fern, sub-evergreen, peculiar in its erectness of habit. A handsome and very desirable species of easy culture. Twenty-five to thirty-four inches.

Aspidium cristatum, var. Clintonianum. One of the rare Ferns, and also one of the finest for cultivation, attaining great height and strength under favorable conditions. Two and a half to three feet.

Robert T. Jackson.

Boston.

* "The Ferns of Great Britain and Ireland." By Thomas Moore, F.L.S. London: 1857.

Plums for the West.

THE notes of Mr. Williams indicate cumulative troubles in attempting to grow the Plums of western Europe and their seedlings, and a growing interest in our native Plums and their crossed seedlings. At the west the foreign Plums have measurably failed from the beginning of prairie settlement, and our farmers have been constantly experimenting with selected native varieties. As a rule, the Miner, Wild Goose and other sorts of the Chickasaw family have failed to perfect paying crops of fruit, though loaded with blossoms annually. The variety giving the best satisfaction in the way of hardiness of tree, perfection of foliage and regular habit of bearing is the Maquoketa. Although plainly of the Chickasaw species, the original tree was found growing at an early day on the Maquoketa River in eastern Iowa. It is rather later in ripening than the typical Wild Goose, and fully its equal in size and quality of fruit.

The varieties of the *P. Americana* family that have proved hardiest in tree, best in foliage and most continuous in bearing during the past twenty years are De Soto, Wolf and Wyant. Even frosty weather during the blossoming period does not appear to prevent a full crop of fruit on these sorts. On mature trees, well cared for, the fruit is large enough, handsome enough, and good enough to compete, in Chicago, with the best varieties shipped in from the South, or even from California, where fruit is usually picked prematurely.

We have many other native Plums that seem to have special local merit, and in time they may take the place of the three sorts named. The traces of curculio are found on many specimens of these varieties, but the larvæ so rarely enter the fruit, that full crops of perfect, or nearly perfect, fruit are the rule, and failures the rare exception.

And now let me direct attention to the varieties of the Plum found north and east of the Carpathian Mountains in Europe. Tourists who are judges of fruits will not hesitate to say that the Plums of eastern Poland, northern Silesia and southern Russia are equal to those found in western Europe. Some of these on trial at the West promise to be hardy in tree, perfect in foliage and early bearers of good fruit, not liable to rot or to the attacks of the curculio. As an instance, I have to-day tested the fruit of the Black Prune of Russia. It is a number of days earlier than Wild Goose, and larger, firmer in flesh and better in quality, for any use, than the latter. It is this year absolutely free from marks of the curculio, and its thinness of foliage will not be favorable for the rot. Though very thick and firm, its leaves are narrow and small, so that the fruit is fully exposed to the air, and even to the sun at intervals. This thinness of foliage seems to characterize the east Europe Plums, even the wild Plums and Prunes of the Volga bluffs.

J. L. Budd.

Ames, Iowa.

The Kitchen Garden.

COLD frames should now be made ready for use. The last days of September or earliest days of October often bring a slight frost, enough to scorch the tops of Snap Beans and Tomatoes, Peppers and Egg Plants. Now, if proper forethought has been exercised, these crops will be grown so that it will now be an easy matter to protect them with frames. Place the frames over the crops at once, and pile the sashes near so that they can be put on quickly. Sashes three feet by six are the handiest for general purposes, and for these four-sash frames are most convenient. These frames are twelve and a half feet long, five feet ten inches wide, eighteen inches high at the back, and twelve inches high in front, and made of pine. These can be carried from place to place by two men, and are used for covering from September till May, and stored up one above the other, four or five deep, during the summer months, or in winter when not in use. Temporary frames may be readily constructed by driving some short, stout stakes into the ground along the back and front of a bed of vegetables six feet wide, and nailing boards (two deep) against these stakes. A light frame-work, shaped like a sash, but covered with "Plant-protecting Cloth" instead of glass, is lighter, easier to handle, and almost as effectual as glass sashes in saving vegetables from early frosts. But as sashes or frames cannot be used for all vegetables, sheeting is a fair substitute. It can be spread over the plants at night and held in place by boards or by spadefuls of earth on the edges. Go to a newspaper printing office and get the calico cloth that has been used in cleaning the presses. It is very strong, one, often two, yards wide, and in lengths perhaps of five to seventy feet. It is just as good for this purpose as new, clean calico. Sew these strips into sheets nine or twelve feet wide, and any length to suit up to forty or a hundred feet. Such a sheet is a capital thing to spread over a bed of Tomatoes or Snap Beans to save them from an early frost.

William Falconer.

Glen Cove, N. Y.

September Rose Notes.

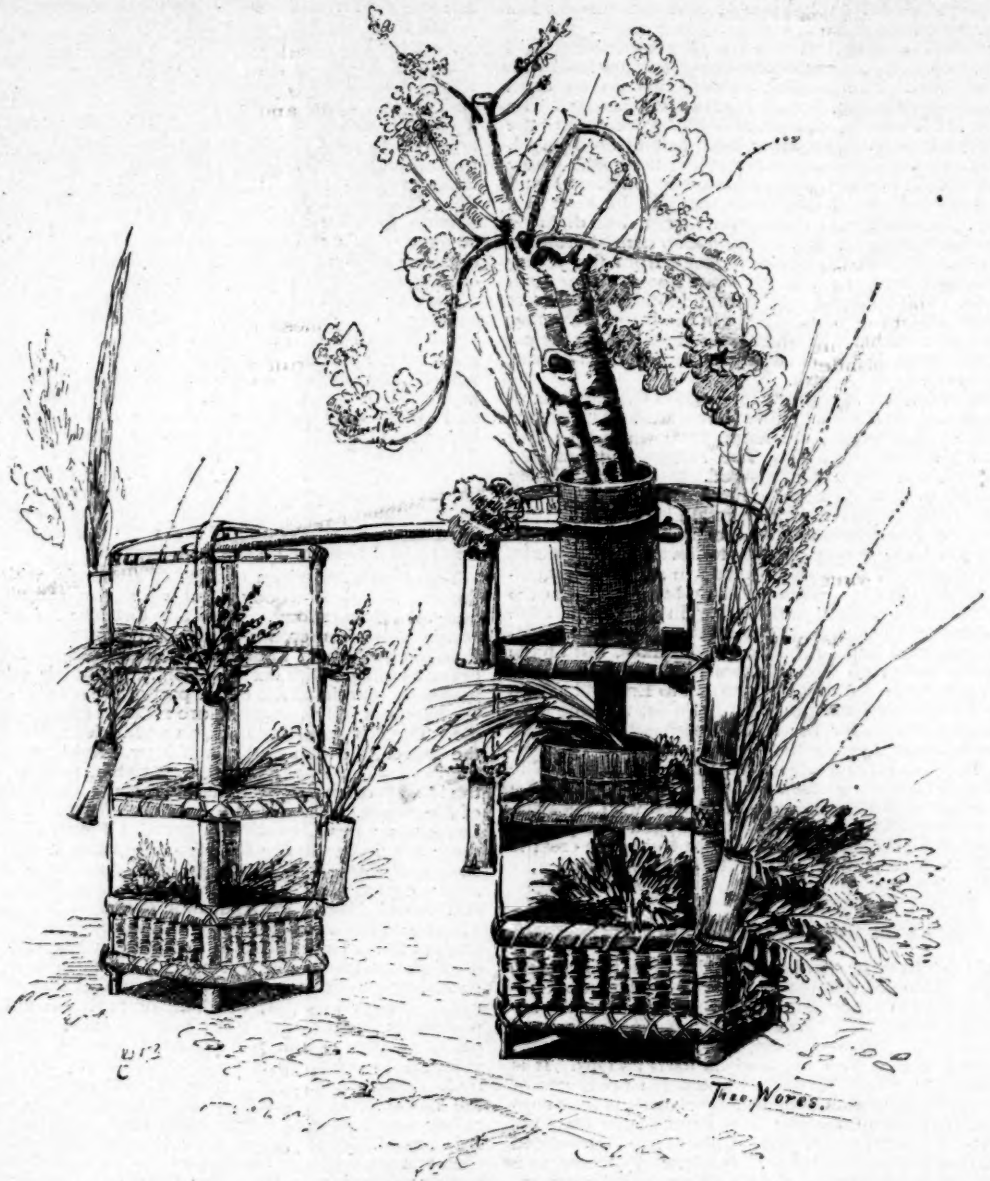
AS the cooler nights of autumn have come, more care should be taken in watering and ventilating the young Roses planted out in the Rose houses during the summer months in preparation for winter forcing. They should now be both rooting and growing freely, and becoming thoroughly established, so as to stand the strain of rapid winter growth. And in watering, of course much depends on the weather, though regular syringing should be given just as often as the weather permits. But, when through any oversight the watering of the Rose houses shall have been postponed until late in the afternoon, it is perhaps better to omit it entirely for that occasion, if the night promises to be cold, rather than to have the plants so drenched with moisture that the foliage has no opportunity to dry before the sun gets up the following

morning. Or if the plants should be watered under such circumstances, a light fire should be made in the boiler, so as to dry the house somewhat during the night. Some discretion should also be shown in the matter of ventilation, as no hard and fast rule can be laid down for this operation any more than for watering, the state of the weather being all-important. Proper care should be taken that the tender young growth of the Roses is not exposed to cold currents of air, else mildew will surely appear. It is a well-known fact that some varieties are much more tender in this respect than others, Catherine Mermet, and her charming offspring, The Bride, being among the most susceptible to mildew. In fact, it is sometimes rather difficult to keep the former perfectly clear of fungus at this season of the year. Still, a judicious application of sulphur will work wonders in this respect. But while it is quite necessary that the airing of the houses should be watched, it is not intended that the Roses should be coddled, or kept too close. Give them plenty of fresh air, with proper care in other respects, and the result will be seen in the sturdy growth, and the bright, vigorous foliage, that are sure forerunners of good bloom.

It may be mentioned here that another contestant has entered the race for popularity among the Roses for winter blooming, in the form of the new Tea, The Gem, so-called provisionally by its introducer, a grower in the vicinity of Philadelphia. The Gem is of uncertain origin, as the introducer is not positive whether it is an entirely new variety or simply an old sort re-discovered. It somewhat resembles Marie Van Houtte in growth, but is claimed to be far superior to that variety, the flowers being about the size of Perle des Jardins and ivory-white in color, frequently tinted with blush or pink in the centre. But as it has not yet been thoroughly tested, it would be best to reserve a positive opinion as to its merits until a longer experience has proved its qualities.

W. H. Taplin.

Holmesburg, Pa.



A Japanese Flower Vender's Basket.—See page 338.

Orchid Notes.—*Paphinia cristata* belongs to a small genus, which is now included in *Lycaste*. All the species are dwarf and bear large flowers in proportion to the size of the plants. *P. cristata* is the oldest, but is by no means plentiful—probably on account of the difficulty in growing it well. It is a very

handsome kind. The flowers, usually two, are borne on pendent racemes, and are three inches across, plentifully barred and striped with purple on a white ground. The lip is thick and fleshy, purplish-brown in color, and terminated by a tuft of white bristles. It grows here in shallow pans in a mixture of peat and moss. It should be in the warmest house, liberally supplied with water, and at no time allowed to get dry. *P. grandis* and *P. rugosa* are also in flower, but do not vary a great deal from the foregoing, except that the former has much larger flowers.

Cœlogyne speciosa is not often seen. It grows about eight inches high, its ovate oblong bulbs being terminated by an erect, leathery leaf. The flowers, usually two on an erect spike, are yellowish-green, about four inches across. The large oblong lip is very handsome, reddish-brown, except the front portion, which is pure white, and beautifully fringed. There are also two prominent crests running nearly the whole length of the lip. It is nearly always in flower and growth, and should be accorded very liberal treatment and be kept in a warm house. Another species now in flower, but differing largely from the foregoing, is *C. corrugata*, so named from its wrinkled bulbs. The erect racemes proceed from the young growths, and bear four to six lovely white flowers, about two inches across. The lip has a deep orange blotch on the crest and longitudinal lines of reddish-brown in the throat. Coming from the Khasya hills, it may be grown with the Odontoglossums, and, like them, delights in abundance of water, but care must be taken not to over-pot it.

Trichopilia grata is a very pretty and useful Orchid, resembling *T. fragrans*, and, like it, is very fragrant. The sepals and petals are yellow-green, the large, pure white lip being marked with a blotch of yellow. The racemes are strong, somewhat erect, and four to six flowered. It grows admirably under the same treatment accorded the Odontoglossums, but should be kept somewhat drier after growth is matured.

Odontoglossum Harryanum is one of the latest and best additions to this large genus. Owing to liberal importations, it is now quite plentiful, and may be seen in nearly every collection. It appears in many forms, and no two drawings of it are alike. That it is very free-flowering in its native state there is evidence in the stout, dry spikes on the imported plants; and imported bulbs produce good spikes, but I have not seen good spikes on home-grown bulbs. The plant in flower with us is from the first importation to England. It is growing freely, and increasing in size of bulbs, with the *Miltonia vexillaria*, and under the same treatment, but I think it would flower better if given more sunlight and a drier atmosphere. In growth it much resembles *O. hastilabium*. The flowers are very handsome, the sepals and petals being of a chestnut-brown, the former barred and tipped with light yellow; the petals are striped with purple and tipped with yellow; the front lobe of the lip is pointed and pure white; the crest is yellow, while the base is heavily striped with light purple.

Kenwood, N. Y. *F. Goldring.*

Notes From the Arnold Arboretum.

THE number of trees or shrubs which flower in this climate after the middle of August is not large. The most important of them, from an ornamental point of view, is the so-called Japanese Sophora (*Sophora Japonica*). This is one of the first trees from Japan cultivated in European gardens, having been introduced into England as early as 1763. It is pretty generally distributed through the eastern provinces of China, both wild and in a cultivated state; and it is now supposed that it may have been one of several plants long believed to be natives of Japan, but really Chinese, and introduced by the Japanese in their gardens. *Sophora Japonica* is a round-headed tree, forty or fifty feet high when fully grown, with cinnamon-brown, scaly bark, and wide-spreading branches, those of recent years covered with bright green, lustrous bark. The deciduous leaves are composed of seven to thirteen pairs of oblong-ovate, acute leaflets, an inch to an inch and a half long, dark green and opaque on the upper, and paler on the under surface. The small, creamy-white, pea-shaped flowers, are arranged in large, loosely-branched, terminal panicles, which about the middle of August often quite cover old specimens. Probably the largest specimens of this tree in Europe are the one in Kew Gardens, one of the first plants brought to Europe, and the still larger and more shapely tree near the palace of the *Petit-Trianon* at Versailles. The finest specimen in America perhaps may be seen in the Public Garden in Boston, although it might be expected to grow more rapidly and to a larger size in the Middle States. *Sophora Japonica* is now used in Italy to a considerable extent as a street tree, notably in Milan, where some of the new boulevards have been successfully planted with it. Its habit adapts it for such a purpose, as do the lightness of the shade, which its pinnate leaves produce, and its habit of flowering late in the summer, when flowers are more valuable than they are earlier in the season. Young plants, however, do not flower very freely, and this tree requires age before it develops all its flowering capacity. The Chinese cultivate this tree largely in some districts for the sake of the "Imperial yellow dye" obtained from the flowers.

Another Japanese tree is now in flower. It is the Japanese variety of *Rhus semialata* (var. *Osbeckii*). *Rhus semialata* is a widely distributed species from Japan, Formosa, and northern and central China to the Himalaya and Khasia mountains. This tree yields the Chinese galls of commerce, which are believed by the Chinese to possess valuable medical properties. The Japanese variety, in which the petioles are broadly wing-margined between the leaflets, is the only one in cultivation. It is a round-headed tree, eighteen or twenty feet high, with smooth, gray bark, and spreading branches, those of the year covered with a rufous pubescence. The leaves are fifteen or eighteen inches long, composed of four or five pairs of ovate-oblong, sharply pointed, serrate, nearly sessile leaflets. These are six or seven inches long, subcoriaceous, dark green and shining on the upper surface, pale, and covered, as are the petioles, with a soft, rusty pubescence, which is more developed on the prominent mid-rib, and fifteen or sixteen primary veins. The small, greenish-white, short-pediceled flowers are produced in large, terminal, many-branched panicles. The male plant only is in cultivation in this country, so far as I know, and the fruit has not, therefore, been seen here. It is described as flattened, and densely covered with short, purple or white pubescence. The foliage of this Japanese Rhus assumes in the autumn the most brilliant orange and scarlet colors. This character, its neat habit, late blooming and perfect hardiness make this one of the most desirable of the small ornamental trees of recent introduction.

Two North American species of Clematis, with cylindrical flowers and semi-woody climbing stems, remain in bloom here all summer long. They are *Clematis crispa* and *C. Pitcheri*. The former is a native of river-swamps from North Carolina to Texas. This species is well marked by its membranous foliage with lax venation, and by the conspicuously undulate margin of the upper part of the sepals, which, when the flower is fully expanded, are reflexed from below the middle. The flowers are solitary, on peduncles rather shorter than the leaves, an inch and a half long, bright purple and very fragrant. The leaves are very variable, ternate or pinnate, the leaflets often deeply lobed, especially those near the base of the stems. There is an excellent figure of this plant in Lavallée's "Les Clématites à grandes Fleures" (*t.* xiv.), and there are figures in the *Botanical Magazine*, *t.* 1892, and in the *Botanical Register*, *t.* 60. It is the *C. cordata*, *Botanical Magazine*, *t.* 1816; the *C. cylindrica*, *Botanical Magazine*, *t.* 1160, and the *C. Viorna* of Andrew's *Botanical Repository*, *t.* 71. *Clematis Pitcheri* is found in the country west of the Mississippi River from Missouri to northern Mexico. It may be distinguished from the last species by its thicker and sometimes almost coriaceous leaves and smaller flowers, which are much darker in color, destitute of perfume and borne on peduncles longer than the pinnate leaves, which are composed of two to four pairs of ovate, obtuse, generally undivided, but sometimes three lobed leaflets. It is well figured by Lavallée, "*l. c.*, *t.* xv.," who also figures, "*t.* xviii.," under the name of *C. Sargenti*, a mere form of this species with rather small flowers, raised from seed distributed from the Arboretum. The fact that these American cylindrical flowered Clematis are perfectly hardy, and that they continue in bloom during several months, make them of considerable garden value, although neither of them are as showy nor as desirable, perhaps, as garden plants, as the scarlet-flowered *C. coccinea* referred to in an earlier issue of these notes.

But a far more valuable plant, from an ornamental point of view, is the common Virgin's Bower, of all eastern North America (*Clematis Virginiana*), which flowers here during the month of August. It grows naturally in low, wet places, along the borders of streams and swamps, sending its long, climbing stems over bushes and low trees. The creamy white and very fragrant flowers are produced in great profusion in loose, axillary clusters, making this plant, next to the Clethra, the most attractive and interesting of the native shrubs which bloom here at this season. The fruit-clusters, with their long and conspicuous feathery tails, which succeed the flowers in autumn, add materially to the ornamental value of this plant. The Traveler's Joy (*Clematis*

Vitalba), a widely distributed species of central and southern Europe, and very similar in general appearance to *C. Virginiana*, but with white flowers, is, on the whole, perhaps, more attractive as an ornamental plant.

August 20th. *J.*

The Forest.

European State Forestry.

THE State Department has done a good piece of work in collecting in one volume the reports of our consuls on "Forestry in Europe."* This volume contains a great deal of interesting and valuable information, but, unfortunately, shows the lack of an editor, who might have sifted the relevant from the irrelevant, and by condensation and the avoidance of unnecessary repetitions might have brought out the prominent features which are of value to the American student. There are also found some misleading and sometimes erroneous statements, which are due to misconceptions of the real situation on the part of the consuls.

This is, perhaps, not easily avoided, for it requires a considerable and intimate knowledge of the conditions prevailing in the different European states in regard to their forest management—and the difference in these is great—in order to be able to properly present the facts and to generalize from them.

The ideas which in general prevail in regard to the activity of the governments in Europe with respect to forestry are more or less erroneous, and the present publication is hardly apt to set them aright.

There is a belief that the forests of Europe are mostly in the hands of government, or at least under government control. What is true for a very small part of the country is made to appear universal, and thus the misconception arises.

From a survey of more than three-quarters of the European forest area, including that of Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, France, Spain, Russia, Sweden and Norway, we may draw, then, the following conclusions as to the position which these states take towards forestry interests, and correct the erroneous views existing in this respect.

1. The governments, excepting in Russia, own the smaller part, in many instances only a nominal area of the forest lands—namely, altogether not more than sixteen to twenty per cent. of the total European forest area.

2. Private individual owners enjoy their forest property almost everywhere without interference on the part of the government.

3. Communities—villages, towns and cities—and "eternal" corporations, like churches, colleges, etc., very often own large tracts of forest land as common property. Over these the state, in many cases, exercises supervisory powers, with a view of preventing the waste and depreciation of this common property, acting *quasi* as guardian or trustee, as in other corporated interests. Wherever supervision of private forest property is exercised it is almost always done only after full demonstration that the common welfare, the interest of the many as against the few, demand it, and full indemnification for damage sustained is given in every case.

4. The idea of State supervision in given cases where the danger to the community from forest devastation or destruction is demonstrated, is not an old but a decidedly modern one, having found expression in legislation only within the last twenty to thirty years; mostly within the last fifteen years. While in all other directions of economic life European governments are working towards non-interference and liberation from government restrictions, in the question of forest management the opposite tendency is developing, the necessity for such government supervision on account of various peculiarities of forest property and forest management being more and more recognized.

All European governments, without exception, have felt themselves in duty bound to encourage and aid proper forest management and all efforts at reforestation. This is done:

(*a.*) By setting a good example in the management of the forests belonging to the State.

(*b.*) By offering an opportunity of acquiring the necessary knowledge in forest schools and encouraging the employment of trained foresters.

(*c.*) By aiding and encouraging reforestation, where it appears necessary, with active financial aid.

It may be stated as of special interest to us that nowhere in these States exists there a bounty system, and where it did exist, as, for instance, in France, it failed to produce the results looked for; while the supplying of plant material, free of cost or at the cost of packing and transportation, and encouragement by the advice and suggestions of forestry officers, or a direct money expenditure for specific purposes of reforestation, have everywhere been practiced with gratifying results.

We also see that the conviction is gaining ground among governments and private citizens, monarchies and republics, that the forests located in certain places serve a more far-reaching and important purpose than that of mere supply of material. Such forests, called protective forests, are, nevertheless, managed with a view of obtaining the material; in such manner, however, that the forest influence may not be disturbed. Forest preservation, in the sense of keeping forests intact and preventing the utilization of their material, is practiced nowhere; it is protection against damage and devastation and proper management that is meant by forest preservation.

Washington, D. C. *B. E. Fernow.*

* "Forestry in Europe."—Reports from the Consuls of the United States.

Correspondence.

The Boston Public Garden.

To the Editor of GARDEN AND FOREST:

Sir.—There is so much that is good in the Public Garden in Boston, and its possibilities of improvement are so great, that it is incumbent upon any one who cares either for gardening or for the best interests of the public to raise a voice in criticism of its present condition in behalf of the better condition to which it might so easily be brought.

Its situation in the heart of the city, and in connection with the Common, is fortunate. Its architectural surroundings are more agreeable than those, for instance, of any small park in New York. Its surface is perceptibly, yet gently, modeled, just as one would wish to have it. It embraces a pretty sheet of water and contains many trees, which, although not yet of very large size, are good and promising specimens. In short, the blocking-out of the garden, so to say, is excellent, and if the details of its execution were as good, it would be one of the most charming urban spots in the world. But, it seems to me, these details are so unfortunate, that it is a warning rather than a model.

For some of them the authorities now in charge are not responsible—for the stone coping which surrounds the water to the injury of naturalness of effect; for the statues, which are far from being satisfactory works of art, and for the bridge, which is not only ugly in design, but almost big and heavy enough to carry a railroad. These details it might be difficult to change. But something might be done to mitigate their defects; the bridge supports and parapets might be clothed with vines, and the masses of shrubbery around the pond might more often be brought down over the coping to the water's edge.

It is, however, details of more recent origin, which most seriously injure the beauty of the spot—details which come under the head of gardening proper. Let us stand for a moment on the bridge and see what the outlook offers.

Do we find unity or harmony in any direction? I think no fair-minded observer can say, Yes. The bridge itself crosses the long pond about midway of its length, and forms part of a straight walk which traverses the garden from west to east. Winding paths diverge from this straight walk in all directions, and the first thing we note is that there are far too many of them, and too many wide, graveled spaces where they intersect. Public convenience does not demand so great an expanse of gravel, and beauty is greatly lessened by the degree to which the lawns are cut up, and unity and reposefulness of effect are thereby injured. Next we notice that there is far too much color in the landscape. Green is the color with which nature paints a landscape of this soft, intimate sort, varying it with innumerable shades, but always keeping the medium shades preponderant, and using the lightest and darkest, and above all the brightest, for accentuation only; sprinkling it with the vivid hues of flowers, but keeping these likewise subordinate to the general soft, verdurous tone. Of course, in a garden man cannot follow nature's example with strictness. As he must innovate upon her disposition of surfaces, so he may upon her use of color, but never to such a degree that her ideal is altogether lost to sight. Now, in the Public Garden, color is much too profusely used, alike in the way of bright or variegated trees and shrubs, and in the way of brilliant low plants and flowers. And it is also badly used. Look off towards Boylston Street, for instance, and the most conspicuous object is a group of trees on the edge of the water, a Golden Poplar

between two very light-colored Willows—the combination ugly in itself, and not properly softened by masses of a soberer hue. And then look in every direction at the scores of formal flower beds planted solid with the crudest hues that the ingenuity of the gardener's craft has been able to produce. Were nine-tenths of them away the garden would profit immensely, and the value of the remainder would be as greatly increased. There is often a place for such beds in a garden design, and in the Public Garden there is a very good place. The long, straight path, taking in the conspicuous bridge and ending at Washington's statue, is a formal feature dictated by convenience, and might appropriately and with good effect be bordered throughout with formal beds. Thus the garden would be enlivened, yet its more natural parts would not be disturbed, and the taste of the public for such beds would be as well met as by the multitude of beds which are now misplaced. Misplaced they are indeed. Nowhere can one walk a hundred steps without coming upon a new one, nowhere can one look in the hope of finding a restful verdant view without seeing them scattered about at random in the most glaringly false situations. Nor is it easy, upon examination, to find one of them which is intrinsically good in color. The Coleus "Golden Bedder," with its vivid, impure yellow tint, and the "Crystal Palace Gem" Geranium, with its cherry-colored blossoms in contrast with yellow-green leaves, are among the most hideous products of recent horticulture, and some of the Alternantheras are almost as bad. Yet it would be impossible to count the hundreds of these plants which have been employed; and even when better ones are used they are seldom well combined. Greatly as the modern gardener loves the bedding-out system, he has small idea of the possibilities of beauty it might possess in hands guided by a good eye for form and color. The "crazy quilt" seems to be the work of art which he most earnestly desires to rival. There is, however, at least one instance in the Public Garden of a really good design—the central panels, to north and south of the border which encircles Washington's statue, and which is chiefly composed of those succulent-leaved, low-growing, formally-shaped plants (Sedums and Echeverias) which above all others are adapted for the purpose. Here the combination of a brown-leaved Oxalis, starred by a few small yellow blossoms with the pink-streaked blue-grays of Stone Crops, is admirably accomplished as regards both line and color. If the edging close to the statue and the intervening Palms were removed, and if all the panels of the border were as good as these two, the arrangement would be a model of excellence, alike in execution and in application.

But these formal beds of gaudy color are not the only things which help to make the Public Garden as restless and inharmonious as possible. Wherever, on the edges of the lawns, there is not a bed, there is sure to be a tropical plant utterly out of keeping with its environment—a Screw Palm, an Agave, a Yucca, an Auraucaria, a Dracæna, or an India-rubber tree. Or if not one of these, then a tree or shrub with vivid leaves or an eccentric form. Looking northward from the bridge, for instance, one sees, to the left of the water, first a vase filled with an intermixture of hardy and tropical plants, then a Golden Poplar, a yellow Retinospora, a Kilmarnock Willow; then a Golden Elder in a pot, backed by a small English Elm, another Golden Poplar, and a wand-like Irish Yew; then a little Weeping Willow, and a half dead, pendulous Purple Beech, overhanging an immense bed of Coleus, in the shape of a double horse-shoe; this between the winding path and the water, and across the path another big bed casually placed on a sloping piece of lawn and flanked by an India-rubber plant and a Dracæna that looks a good deal like a broom on end—all within the space of a few feet, in a spot where surely some natural arrangement was called for, and all in no sense combined or disposed, but spotted about at random. It is needless to ask where is the peacefulness, the repose, of such a landscape passage—where is its sense, its beauty of any sort? It has variety enough and to spare, but no trace of unity; contrasts of the most glaring kind, but no faintest shadow of harmony. Nothing helps the effect of anything else, and nothing looks well in itself being so palpably out of place. Of these poor, misused, forlorn looking tropical plants, something the same may be said as was said of the formal beds—both because they are known not to be natural products of our clime, and because they are formal, architectural, in expression, their place is in combination with architecture. On the bridge, or by the pedestal of a statue, some of them might look well. Mingled with shrubberies, or isolated on a lawn, they are ruined themselves and ruin their surroundings.

More than this might be said of the defects of the public garden—something, for instance, of the many vases which are also isolated on the lawns and even in the middle of the pond; of the plot which is filled with Aloes, Agaves and Cacti, in futile imitation of a Mexican garden, crowded together so their own forms do not show, and as out of place here as a giraffe between the traces of a Boston Herdic; of the rock-garden built up under an Elm tree, in a flat situation, and filled with another heterogeneous mixture of inappropriate plants. But all I wish to do is to beg the many lovers of nature and lovers of art who daily cross this garden to stop a moment and ask themselves whether it is really as it should be, and, as well as I could, to indicate the point of view from which such an inquiry should be made. And for this purpose surely enough has been said. *M. G. Van Rensselaer.*

Marion, Mass.

[The Public Garden in Boston has many defects, and it certainly does not represent, as might perhaps be expected, the true and actual condition of the gardening art in this country, as judged by its best examples. It must be said, however, that the garden has been greatly improved under its present management, and that in several respects it is much less objectionable than it was a few years ago. It is now much better kept in every way than formerly; the number of flower-beds has been reduced, and several useless walks have been done away with. The radical faults with the garden have come largely from an entire disregard of any fixed or established plan for planting, if any one has ever had any such plan or any clear or definite idea on the subject. Flower-beds have been made, and trees and shrubs have been stuck in year after year, not as a part of a carefully studied plan, but haphazard, here and there, or wherever a piece of open turf seemed to offer an opportunity to place a horticultural novelty. The result has been that the garden is now spotted over in every direction with the most incongruous, and often the most absurd, plants, and that there is nowhere, in a garden of twenty-five acres, a single quiet stretch of turf or a single spot where the eye can find repose. This feeling of a want of restfulness, too, is increased by the fact that the boundaries have been left too much exposed, so that it is impossible, within the garden, to obtain anything like a feeling of being in the country. The cost of maintaining the garden is enormous; much of this money could be saved and the garden immensely improved, if half the flower-beds and a great many of the walks were turfed over. The bedding gardening, both spring and summer, while perhaps no worse in design and execution than that seen in Hyde Park and in Battersea Park in London, certainly is not artistic. The plants are not always well selected and the combinations of colors are often appalling. The truth is, that the artistic arrangement of bright colored flowers or foliage plants in masses, whether they are Tulips or Coleus and Scarlet Geraniums, requires great artistic feeling, long practice and rare good judgment. Gardeners rarely possess the first of these qualities, while artists, who might make harmonious combinations of color, lack the technical knowledge and the interest in such combinations. The strongest argument against the bedding out system as a system is found in the difficulty of finding men who can do it in a truly artistic manner. The French make such combinations of color better than any other people, but even in Paris really good combinations of colors are rather the exception than the rule. English work of this sort, as might have been expected, is certainly far inferior to the French, while outside of Chicago, and possibly Pittsburgh, there is nothing so bad in the United States as the bedding in the public and many of the private English gardens. Another objection to elaborate bedding gardening—and this is true as well of any absorbing specialty in gardening—is that it inevitably leads to the neglect of other departments. The Public Garden well illustrates this. Constant daily attention is given to the flower-beds, which are weeded and pinched and cut religiously, while the grass is allowed to be overrun with weeds, the edgings of the walks are

neglected, insects swarm upon the trees, and the pond and fountain-basins are foul and filled with rubbish. The tropical plants stuck about the garden, to which our correspondent calls attention, are a new feature, which, with the hardy and half-hardy shrubs, plunged in pots wherever a place can be found for them, only serve to decrease its beauty and diminish its real usefulness. The money which it costs the city to buy these plants, and build and heat the green-houses in which they must be stored in winter, might be spent more wisely in destroying injurious insects or in cleaning the filth from the pond. The Boston Public Garden is visited by thousands of people every week. Its educational importance, therefore, is great—greater, probably, than that of any other garden of its size in the United States. It is a misfortune, therefore, not only for the people of Boston, but for those of the whole country, that it cannot be made to express the real meaning of what such a garden should be.—ED.]

To the Editor of GARDEN AND FOREST:

Sir.—Referring to the article on "The Street Trees in Washington," in *Harper's Magazine* for July, let me say that nine years ago I examined these trees in company with the late Dr. John A. Warder. We thought it a good idea to plant these common, rapidly-growing trees to make shade, while valuable trees, that grew more slowly, were being established, and regretted that they were planted so closely as to give insufficient room for the permanent trees that we supposed would be planted between them to take their places. It seems from Mr. Peter Henderson's remarks that these trees were intended to remain. Of the 63,014 trees planted, 43,914 are of Silver Maple, Box Elder and Poplar. The climate of Washington would admit of a selection of street trees that could not endure the climate of our Northern cities. In that climate especially trees should be selected which hold their leaves fresh in the late summer months. The Silver Maple, Box Elder and Poplars (over two-thirds of the whole number planted) are certainly not the best that could be selected on that account. Compare them in this respect with the Sugar Maple, the Cucumber tree, "*Magnolia acuminata*," the Tulip tree, the Oaks and many others.

The foliage of the Silver Maple is poor in the late summer compared with the above named, and, besides this, the branches are brittle, and the trees are disfigured with broken and dead branches before growing old. The foliage of the Box Elder is quite dense and rich in color early in the season, but never fresh in the latter part of the season after it has reached the age of twenty-five or thirty years, and especially away from the margins of streams. Nearly all the Poplars, with the exception of the Lombardy, are a nuisance in the streets in early summer, shedding their down like rain upon the just and the unjust.

If longevity is taken into consideration, how will the Silver Maples, Box Elders and Poplars appear when fifty years old? Here where I write (Hanover, New Hampshire) the White Elms and Sugar Maples, a hundred years old, line the streets, and are noble trees still. Does any of these 43,914 trees compare with the White Elm? Will any one of them endure the city smoke better than the White Elm? I am not finding fault with what has been done, I only wish to call attention to what has not been done. No trees would make a shade quicker nor so cheaply as these 43,914 trees, and if they shade the streets for even twenty years they will have paid their way, but it is already time to arrange for filling their places. Seeds of trees of valuable and durable kinds should be sown now, the trees grown and transplanted, with plenty of room, so that they will be strong and vigorous before being planted into the intermediate spaces. Then the soft-wooded trees can be cut back on the sides, more or less, allowing the newly-planted ones room to become well established, and by that time the White Maples, Cottonwoods and Box Elders will be in a failing condition. *Robert Douglas.*

[This letter was written before Mr. Douglas had seen an editorial article on the same subject in this journal.—ED.]

To the Editor of GARDEN AND FOREST:

Sir.—The quotation from an article entitled, "Among My Weeds," in a recent issue of GARDEN AND FOREST, brings to mind some "weeds" of my own cultivating—among them the Poke. It is a matter of wonder that the Poke has not a place in beds where strong, vigorous plants are growing. It is an exceedingly distinct and picturesque plant. The rich colors of its stem and its graceful manner of growth are especially noticeable. A marked trait is, that on the same spray, where the berries are ripe, there will be not only green berries, but flowers and buds. The stem of the spray alone is remarkable for beauty. I have stripped them of the berries and arranged them in a vase-bouquet, and every one was desirous of knowing what the new and rich-colored thing was. So with the flowers, which are unique and pretty. A party of visitors once gathered around a plateau of flowers in which I had arranged the Poke blooms, and were curious to know what sort of Wax-plant it was. The odor of the plant is not pleasant, but this is slight in the flower, if at all noticeable. I raised my crop of Poke from seed, but as the plant is perennial, it will come up from year to year, faithful to the appointed time.

Palmyra, N. J. *H. V. A.*

Recent Publications.

Bulletin of Miscellaneous Information.—Royal Gardens, Kew, No. 19, July, 1888.

This, the last number of the useful publication which has reached us, like its predecessors, is filled with valuable information. It contains, among other articles, the following: On Bhabur Grass (*Ischæmum augustifolium*), with a figure, a plant closely resembling the well-known Espartu Grass in habit and in qualities, which make it valuable in the manufacture of paper. Bhabur Grass is a native of northern India, where it grows on dry, bare slopes, and is used mostly in the manufacture of cordage. It is believed that this plant, were it cultivated on a large scale, might become important in furnishing excellent material for paper-making, and that it can be easily cultivated this paper gives abundant evidence.

(2) On the Cayman Islands, a group of three small islands—Grand Cayman, Little Cayman and Cayman Brac—situated in the Caribbean Sea about 200 miles west of Jamaica, and rarely visited by travelers. They contain, however, a population of more than 4,000 persons, who are described as temperate, strong, tall, healthy-looking people, chiefly white or colored, "and who are doubtless descended from the original settlers of the last century." The population of black people is comparatively small. The vegetation of their islands is similar to that of Jamaica, as are the crops, which are principally Sugar-cane and Cocoa-nuts.

(3) On the Prickly Pear in South Africa, being a discussion of the best methods for exterminating the Prickly Pear from South African fields, and of the uses to which these plants can be applied, by Prof. MacOwen, director of the Botanic Garden in Cape Town in South Africa. It is based upon the rapid spread of the Prickly Pear, as one or more species of Opuntia are called, in all dry regions of the Old World. These plants are of American origin, but they are as much at home in the Old World as on their native Mexican plateau. They render the land they occupy worthless for all purposes of agriculture, and it is becoming, therefore, a matter of real importance to determine how such plants are to be effectually eradicated at a small cost, or if they cannot be eradicated, how they can be profitably cultivated.

There are also articles in this issue upon Valonia (the acorn cups of Quercus Ægilops), of which large quantities are imported annually into England from Greece and Asia Minor, and upon Star Anise—*Illicium verum.*

Recent Plant Portraits.

CATTLEYA WALKERIANA, *Revue de l'Horticulture Belge*, June.

Rhododendron MAIDEN'S BLUSH, *Revue de l'Horticulture Belge*, June; one of the earliest of the race of green-house Rhododendrons raised by the Messrs. Veitch, and derived from *R. Javanicum.*

HAKEA LAURINA, *Bulletino de la R. Societa Toscana di Orticultura*, June.

Rose BARDON JOB, *Journal des Roses*, May; a handsome Tea Rose, with semi-double scarlet flowers, raised from the well known Gloire des Rosomanes by Narbonnard & Sons, of Golfe Juan, and recommended as a strong-growing pillar Rose, or for bedding.

BAHIA (ERIOPHYLLUM) CONFERTIFLORA, *Gartenflora*, June 15th; a half shrubby Californian Composite, with small heads of yellow flowers.

CHÆNACTIS TENUIFOLIA, *Gartenflora*, June 15th; a loosely-branched, diffuse Composite from the coast of southern California, like the last, of little horticultural interest.

ANTIRRHINUM NUTTALLIANUM, *Gartenflora*, June 15th; a late

California species, with slender, sprawling branches, small leaves, and minute purple flowers, of no interest as a garden plant.

TRICHOPILIA LEHMANNI, *Gartenflora*, July 1st.

ZYGOPETALUM BRACHYPETALUM, var. STENOPETALUM, *Gartenflora*, July 15th.

ASTER ALPINUS, var. SPECIOSUS, *Gartenflora*, July 1st; a stately variety of a well known and widely distributed plant, discovered by Dr. Albert Regel, on the high mountains of central Asia.

GLOXINIA GESNERIOIDES, Charles Schubert, *Wiener Illustrirte Gartenzeitung*, June.

IRIS KOROLKOWII, *Gardener's Chronicle*, July 14th.

PINUS SABINIANA, *Gardener's Chronicle*, July 14th; the well known Digger Pine of California, figured from a specimen grown in the gardens of the Villa Thuret, at Antibes, in the south of France.

OSTROWSKYA MAGNIFERA, *Gardener's Chronicle*, July 21st; a wonderful Campanulaceous plant, discovered by Dr. Albert Regel on the mountains of Chanat Darwas, in eastern Bokhara. "It is a hardy perennial, with tuberous roots. As shown, the stem is three feet in height, green, sprinkled with small red spots, with four-leaved whorls at intervals. The leaves are glabrous, rather fleshy, shortly stalked, oblong-acute, coarsely toothed. The inflorescence is cymose, the flowers on long stalks, at first pendulous, afterwards nearly erect; when fully expanded they measure five and three-quarter inches in diameter. The plant, despite a paleness of color in the flower, is certainly one of the finest herbaceous plants ever introduced, and as there can be no doubt as to its hardihood, and little or any as to its adapting itself readily to cultivation, it is sure to become a popular favorite."

The plant from which this illustration was made was exhibited by the Messrs. Veitch at a late exhibition of the Royal Horticultural Society of England.

Notes.

A young Apple-tree in a yard on Washington Street, near Eggleston Square, Boston, was in full flower on the 2d of September.

Mr. Albert Koebele, an agent of the Entomological Division of the Department of Agriculture, has sailed for Australia to study the parasites affecting the cottony cushion scale, especially in the interest of horticulture in California.

It is expected that not more than one million pounds of tobacco will be raised in Egypt this year, although, an the average, thirteen million pounds have been produced in former seasons. The decrease is owing to the recent action of the Khedive in putting a tax of $157.50 on each acre of ground devoted to this crop.

At the late convention of Florists a resolution was adopted to the effect that it would be of great advantage to the trade if manufacturers would unite to make pots of uniform size, and members of the Society are invited to sign a circular stating that henceforth they propose to use no other pots than those of the standard size adopted by the Society. A copy of this circular is to be sent to all the potters in the country.

Mr. John J. Thomas reports in the *Country Gentleman* that an orchard of Bartlett pears, in which the trees were sprayed with Paris green, show scarcely a defective specimen of fruit, while on another tree, forty rods distant, which was not treated with the poison, nearly every pear is disfigured by the codlin worm in the core and by the curculio on the surface. The Bartlett pear, from its earliness and texture, is particularly liable to attacks of the curculio.

Mr. F. W. Burbidge describes, in a recent issue of the London *Garden*, an interesting specimen of the Sycamore Maple, with bright red fruit, growing in a garden near Dublin: "The tree itself in growth resembles the type, but the leaves are smaller and of a more shining or glossy green, being glaucous behind. The leaf-stalks or petioles are bright red, and the fruits, instead of being in dense or short clustered racemes of a greenish hue, are borne in long-stalked clusters, and are red, verging on crimson when fully exposed to the sun." Nothing is known of the history of this tree.

In speaking of the Rose American Beauty at the Florists' Convention, Mr. Edwin Lonsdale said that it could be obtained from January till December, and not September, as was reported. The fact that it can be had at all seasons gives this Rose a special value, although, in order to give a fair profit, where artificial heat is needed, it ought not to sell at wholesale for less than twenty-five dollars a hundred. Mr. Lonsdale finds that in some cases it does better the second year after planting. American Beauty is at this time the main dependence of New York florists for long-stemmed Roses, and brings at retail from three to four dollars a dozen.

The *Revue Horticole*, in a recent issue, calls attention to *Choisya ternata*, which it considers the most desirable of all early spring-flowering shrubs. It is a Mexican evergreen, belonging to the same family as the Orange, with beautiful, dark green, shining foliage, corymbs of numerous pure white, deliciously fragrant flowers, which are produced in the greatest profusion during the months of April and May. The flowers remain fresh for a long time when cut and are well adapted for bouquets. This plant is not, unfortunately, hardy in the Northern States, but it would probably succeed anywhere south of Virginia, or in California, where it will, doubtless, find itself perfectly at home.

Hybrid Gladioli were again the floral feature at the meeting of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, held on the 1st of September. Mr. J. Warren Clarke duplicated his remarkable collection of seedlings shown the previous week; and Mr. James Cartwright, of Wellesley, sent an equally large collection of almost equal merit. Indeed it would be difficult to say which of these two collections contained the largest number of really valuable varieties. Mr. Hunnewell exhibited a dish of twelve Late Crawford Peaches from his orchard-house. The twelve weighed six pounds six ounces, the largest measuring eleven and a half inches in circumference and weighing eleven and a quarter ounces. Such a dish of Peaches, it is safe to say, has never been seen in Boston before. A dish of Red Bietigheimer was conspicuous in a large collection of summer Apples, exhibited by Mr. Samuel Hartwell, of Lincoln. This is one of the largest and handsomest of the summer Apples, with a smooth, whitish-yellow skin, beautifully shaded with red. Its firm texture and sub-acid flavor, however, make it a better cooking than dessert fruit.

The second annual convention of the Association of American Cemetery Superintendents was held in the Clarendon Hotel, Brooklyn, last week. At the meetings on Wednesday and Thursday a number of papers of great merit were read on important subjects of practical interest. Among them were the following: "An Ideal Cemetery," by Mr. F. Eurich, of Toledo, Ohio; "Landscape Gardening in Cemeteries," by Mr. R. D. Cleveland, of Minneapolis, a son of Mr. H. W. S. Cleveland; "Lawns," by Mr. W. Salway, of Cincinnati; "Roads," by Mr. O. C. Simonds, of Chicago; "Green-houses and Flowers," by Mr. J. E. Barker, of Boston. The members of the Board of Officers—whose names and addresses have been given in an earlier issue of this journal—were unanimously re-elected. It was decided to hold the next convention at Detroit, in the third week of August, 1889. This association is an organization, the existence of which is full of promise for the better ordering and management of American cemeteries, and it will doubtless have an increasing measure of support from the superintendents and trustees of cemeteries throughout the country.

Every one who has visited Montreal in August will remember the enormous Cantaloupe Melons and their fine flavor. They are almost round, flattened at both ends, deeply ribbed; the skin green and netted, and the green flesh very thick. After some ineffectual attempts by Boston dealers to import these Melons, the growers about that city have been making experiments with them, and Mr. W. H. Allen, of Arlington, has achieved a striking success. According to the *American Cultivator*, he imported his seed direct from Montreal and started them under glass with a moderate bottom heat. In fact, he kept the melons under glass as long as he could. One important point in their culture is to water the vines freely, yet after the Melons commence to form, the fruit should not be wet. The growers in Montreal place a small pane of cheap glass under each Melon to prevent contact with the earth. Mr. Allen and other successful growers about Boston always import their seed each year direct from some trustworthy concern in Montreal. Mr. Allen produced fine, ripe specimens this year as early as August 1st, two or three weeks earlier than the ordinary Cantaloupe. He sold the largest and most perfect-shaped Melon of the variety ever seen in Quincy market for three dollars. It weighed nearly thirty pounds. He sold them by the box at one dollar and twenty-five cents each, weighing eighteen to twenty pounds to the melon. The price soon dropped to one dollar each and is now about seventy-five cents.